# University of Toronto



OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

APPENDIX "D" TO REPORT NUMBER 147 OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD January 11, 2007

TO:

Planning and Budget Committee

 SPONSOR:
 Vivek Goel, Vice-President and Provost

 CONTACT INFO:
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DATE: November 24, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 5

### **ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Policy on Interdisciplinary Education and Research Planning

### JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Planning and Budget Committee is, pursuant to section 4.4.1 of its terms of reference, responsible for making recommendations on plans to establish and structure academic units. It is also responsible, pursuant to section 4.1 of its terms of reference, for planning matters including the 'strategic planning framework for research.'

### **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

In 1984, the Governing Council approved the Report of the Provostial Committee on Centres and Institutes.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

At the present time, the University's commitment to interdisciplinary research, as well as guidelines for Extra-Departmental Units (EDUs), are embedded in the *Report of the Provostial Committee on Centres and Institutes* (Marsden Report, 1984, Appendix 1) that is posted as a Governing Council Policy and Procedure. Based on consultation with the Interdisciplinarity Committee, Research Policies Review Committee and Principals and Deans and Academic Directors, it is proposed that the *Marsden Report* be replaced with a separate *Policy on Interdisciplinary Education and Research Planning* (For Approval - Appendix 2) and *Guidelines for Administrative Functions and Protocols of Extra-Departmental Units* (For Information - Appendix 3).

The importance of interdisciplinary scholarship and research at the University of Toronto is firmly embedded in the University's 2004-2010 *Stepping UP* academic plan. *Stepping UP* clearly describes the challenging issues confronting society that require scholarship that is interdisciplinary and notes that we have a rich tradition of such work at the University that serves to enhance the student experience both in teaching and exposure to research. We are also unique in the breadth and strength of our disciplinary programs which is the basis for sound interdisciplinary activity. We have to ensure that barriers to such activity are identified and take action to facilitate overcoming them. It is also important to stress, that notwithstanding the commitment to interdisciplinary research and teaching, the University remains strongly committed to fostering strength and excellence in the disciplines.

A workshop conducted by the Vice-President and Provost in January, 2004 identified some key challenges to interdisciplinary activity at the University.<sup>1</sup> One of the outcomes of the workshop was the suggestion that a standing committee be formed to develop strategies to address the key challenges identified. The standing Interdisciplinarity Committee was created in the spring of 2005 to follow up on the issues and suggestions raised by the Workshop.

The Interdisciplinarity Committee re-affirmed the importance of excellent interdisciplinary and disciplinary research and teaching at the University of Toronto as expressed in *Stepping UP*. Information regarding the Committee and its initial reports and recommendations are available on the Office of the Vice-President and Provost web site<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/English/Symposium-on-Interdisciplinary-and-Multi-Unit-Planning.html</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/English/Interdisciplinarity-Committee.html

Through an analysis of our strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities and threats to interdisciplinarity, the Committee agreed that although our academic plan highlights the importance of interdisciplinary research and teaching, we must constantly strive to ensure that we are facilitating the inception and maintenance of this activity at the University. The Committee recommended that the *Marsden Report* be rescinded as a Governing Council policy and in its place recommended a policy on interdisciplinary education and research planning.

Concurrently, in the spring of 2006, the Vice-President Research and Associate Provost struck a committee to review the University's Research Policies and Procedures, of which the *Marsden Report* was included. Both the Interdisciplinarity Committee and Research Policies and Procedures Review Committee flagged that there is no clear policy regarding the importance and planning for interdisciplinary education and research at the University.

The Policy on Interdisciplinary Education and Research Planning allows the University to clearly convey a commitment to interdisciplinary and assigns planning responsibility.

The Interdisciplinarity Committee also recommended that the Extra-Departmental Unit (EDU) administrative guidelines be revised and administered through the Office of the Vice-President and Provost. The EDU administrative structure is a key element in supporting interdisciplinary activity. The Committee recommended that the revised guidelines should reflect the current types of EDU at the University<sup>3</sup> as well as allow for flexibility to update the criteria as the nature of the units continues to evolve. The EDU criteria for locally established units should allow for flexibility in the establishment and disestablishment of units.

The *Guidelines for Administrative Functions and Protocols of Extra-Departmental Units* have been developed as an administrative document. The *Policy* designates that the Office of the Vice-President and Provost will be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date catalogue of EDUs and of periodically revising the *Guidelines* with significant changes being reported to governance. Therefore, the initial *Guidelines* are presented to governance for information.

Future work of the Interdisciplinarity Committee will focus on identifying measures for assessment of interdisciplinary teaching and research at the University; best practices for administration and governance of EDUs; and mechanisms for fostering interdisciplinary education and research.

#### FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the *Policy on Interdisciplinary Education and Research Planning*. The implementation of the *Policy* will formalize high-level designating authority and responsibility for planning to foster interdisciplinary teaching and research.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Planning and Budget Committee recommend to the Academic Board:

THAT the *Policy on Interdisciplinary Education and Research Planning*, hereto attached as Appendix 2, be approved, replacing the *Report of the Provostial Committee on Centres and Institutes*, approved by Governing Council in 1984.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Since 1984 the number of catalogued EDUs has grown from 42 to over 175, each with its own unique mission. Some are large, some small, some span several academic divisions and others are located within a department. Some are in their early years of formation and some are well-established with substantive research and teaching activities and international stature. A draft listing of EDUs at the University is presented at <a href="http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/userfiles/page">http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/userfiles/page</a> attachments/Library/6/ID Section12006 2296677.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/provoci.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/English/Symposium-on-Interdisciplinary-and-Multi-Unit-Planning.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/English/Interdisciplinarity-Committee.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Since 1984 the number of catalogued EDUs has grown from 42 to over 175, each with its own unique mission. Some are large, some small, some span several academic divisions and others are located within a department. Some are in their early years of formation and some are well-established with substantive research and teaching activities and international stature. A listing of EDUs at the University is presented at <u>http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/userfiles/page\_attachments/Library/6/ID\_Section12006\_2296677.pdf</u>

### Appendix 1

### Governing Council Report of the Provostial Committee on Centres and Institutes Table of Contents

Preamble

Part I: Introduction

Part II: Units and Their Administrative Functions

- 1 Description of Types of Extra-Departmental Units at the University of Toronto
- 2 Establishment
- 3 Appointment of an Administrator: Director, Coordinator
- 4 Reporting Authority
- 5 Appointing Rights for Faculty
- 6 Teaching Role
- 7 Research Role
- 8 Budgetary Authority
- 9 Administration of Grievances
- 10 Process of Review
- 11 Disestablishment

Part III: Recommendations

### Preamble

The former Provost, now President David Strangway, charged the Provostial Committee on Centres and Institutes with the task of reviewing the existing relationships of centres and institutes and other similar groups in relation to the Haist Rules at the University of Toronto. We were asked to look at the administrative structure, appointment authority and academic role of such units and to look at the relationship among such units. We were asked to recommend a set of guidelines which would fit with existing rules or to propose changes to those rules where necessary. We have located over 300 units which are known as institutes, centres, groups or programmes. Of these, some two dozen or more are known as institutes or centres, with over half of these in the School of Graduate Studies.

Membership of the Committee reflects the wide range of activities in extra-departmental units in every part of the University. Those serving on the Committee are listed at the end of the report.

This report is intended for wide circulation within the University community. The report is organized into three main parts. In the first part, we have set out the premises and assumptions on which we based our work; the second part is a description of categories of units and their proposed administrative functions and relationship to the governing structure of the University. The third and final part of the report consists of our list of recommendations drawn together from the body of the report.

This report is presented to the Provost for action through the appropriate Councils and Committees of the University.

### Part I: Introduction

The University of Toronto has a larger faculty than any other academic institution in Canada. The diverse research and teaching interests of this group have provided great strength in traditional departments and degree programmes. There are few departments which do not include some of the leading Canadian authorities in the discipline and scholars of international reputation. A salient feature of the University during the past fifty years has been the extent to which faculty members are permitted and encouraged to develop research and teaching interests which do not fit easily within rigid and orthodox disciplinary boundaries. Over the years this has given rise to a large and diverse range of co-operative groupings, some involving informal collections of two or three faculty members without elaborate administrative structures, and others formalized into large institutes with substantial budgetary and administrative support. It is no criticism of traditional departments to say that some of the university has encouraged these developments, and this situation contrasts notably with that at some other leading universities in this country. In the opinion of this Committee, such a policy has had academic and administrative advantages. The Provostial Committee, in undertaking a review of the various extra-departmental arrangements which have arisen, does not wish to take any action which would hamper or stifle innovative activities by the faculty. Thus, the task has been to determine if there are administrative measures of clarification and identification which can encourage and enhance such activities.

To differentiate extra-departmental units offering research and/or teaching programmes at the University of Toronto, the Provostial Committee on Centres and Institutes has drawn up a set of characteristics for four different types of units that operate within the University outside the basic structure formed by departments.

We recognize that the names of existing units are traditional, and it is not our intention in this report to advocate that these names necessarily be changed. Therefore, we have labelled the types of units EDU (Extra-Departmental Unit) with a number. The terms "institute", "centre", "group/research group" and "programme" describe those units with which we are familiar. It is our hope that the sets of characteristics we have differentiated can be recognized as institutes, centres, groups and programmes, and that those in such units will be consistent in the naming of their units where possible. EDU:01 = institute, EDU:02 = centre, EDU:003 = group, and EDU:004 = programme.

Some of the existing EDU's are "in" the School of Graduate Studies. We have begged the question of establishing the criteria by which a unit ought to be within or outside of the School. It is our opinion that the School should continue to have the exclusive responsibility to approve graduate courses and programmes and to recommend them to the Academic Affairs Committee of Governing Council. In addition, rights to make appointments to the graduate faculty should be retained by the School for all units, including EDU's. However, if the recommendations of this report are accepted, a process of evolution will take place in units as they move into alignment with what has been proposed. In that evolutionary process, we suggest that the budgetary and reporting responsibilities for each EDU should be determined in discussions involving the unit, the School, and the cooperating deans and chairs of departments.

For units formed in cooperation with other universities or outside agencies, such as research ancillaries, the relevant principles of organization and responsibility as listed below should apply; the Vice-President (Research and Government Relations) is normally responsible for overseeing such agreements.

### Part II: Units and Their Administrative Functions

The pages below describe the processes and procedures involved in the establishment and work of each type of unit. These are intended to establish lines of authority and reporting, and to clarify issues concerning reviews and the work of coordinators or directors.

|  | EDU:01  | EDU:02   | EDU:003   | EDU:004  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1. Description of<br>Extra-<br>Departmental<br>Units | This is a multidisciplinary,<br>multi-departmental group<br>with faculty and students<br>working in a defined area<br>of academic study and<br>research investigation. It<br>is a centrally established<br>and independent unit<br>designed to foster<br>research and teaching in<br>new or highly specialized<br>areas.  | This is normally a<br>multidisciplinary<br>multidepartmental<br>research unit with a broad<br>research domain in a<br>particular area of<br>academic work. It exists<br>to foster research and<br>scholarly interest in the<br>area. It may sponsor<br>EDU:004's   | This is a cluster of<br>scholars who have come<br>together for the purpose<br>of pursuing specific<br>research objectives. It<br>may be multidisciplinary<br>or it may arise within a<br>single discipline or<br>department, EDU:01 or<br>EDU:02.   | This refers to a set of<br>courses in a area of<br>academic interest not<br>offered under<br>departmental course<br>offerings. Such<br>programmes may be<br>offered jointly by more<br>than one Faculty or may<br>exist between<br>departments in a Faculty.<br>An EDU:004 may also be<br>established in an EDU:02                 |
| 2. Establishment                                     | Faculty from at least two<br>fields draft a proposal for<br>a multidisciplinary<br>teaching and research<br>unit with University base<br>budget funds and<br>possible external funding.<br>If approved by the<br>departments and<br>division(s) involved,<br>proposal for the<br>multidepartmental unit is<br>brought by the dean(s)<br>before the Academic<br>Affairs Committee through<br>the Vice-President and<br>Provost, the Planning and<br>Resources Committee<br>through the President,<br>and then the Governing<br>Council for approval. | Proposal for a<br>multidepartmental<br>research unit is brought<br>for approval before the<br>council or governing body<br>of the division(s)<br>concerned, by the faculty<br>in several fields who are<br>developing the concept of<br>the unit. If approved,<br>proposal for the unit,<br>including<br>recommendations on<br>internal University and<br>external grant funding and<br>on staffing, is reported to<br>the Vice-President and<br>Provost, the Vice-<br>President (Research and<br>Government Relations),<br>and the Office of<br>Research Administration<br>by the dean(s) of the<br>divisions(s) involved, who<br>have agreed upon<br>resource commitments<br>and budget. | Proposal for a research<br>unit is brought for<br>approval before the<br>head(s) of the division(s)<br>concerned, by faculty in<br>the department(s) within<br>the division(s) involved in<br>developing the research<br>project(s). The existence<br>of the unit and the name<br>of the Coordinator are<br>reported to the Vice-<br>President and Provost,<br>the Vice-President<br>(Research and<br>Government Relations),<br>and the Office of<br>Research Administration. | Proposal for a programme<br>is brought for approval<br>before the department(s)<br>and curriculum<br>committee(s) concerned,<br>by faculty in the<br>department(s) involved in<br>developing the proposed<br>course of study.<br>Consideration by the<br>Academic Affairs<br>Committee or its<br>subcommittees may be<br>required. |

|  | EDU:01   | EDU:02  | EDU:003  | EDU:004  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 3. Appointment of an<br>Administrator:<br>Director Coordinator | Toronto Policy   | For SGS Units, see<br>School of Graduate<br>Studies The Yellow Book:<br>Item 11-1-2 to 11-1-3: The<br>Search for a Director If<br>not in the SGS, a director<br>is appointed for a fixed<br>term by the dean(s) by<br>whom the unit was<br>created. Termination of<br>the appointment of a<br>director rests with the<br>dean(s) of the division(s)<br>concerned. The name of<br>the director is filed with<br>the ORA. Any change in<br>status of the director must<br>be reported to the ORA.   | The Coordinator is<br>appointed by the head(s)<br>of the division(s)<br>concerned to serve a<br>fixed term determined by<br>the department(s)<br>involved. The Coordinator<br>serves as designated<br>authority of the unit, but<br>may share authority for a<br>specific research project<br>with another member so<br>designated. Termination<br>of the appointment of a<br>Coordinator rests with the<br>head(s) of the division(s)<br>concerned. | The Coordinator is<br>appointed by the head(s)<br>of the department(s) or<br>division(s) concerned for<br>a fixed term. Termination<br>of this appointment rests<br>with the head(s) involved. |
|  |  |   |  |  |
| 4. Reporting Authority   | The director, under the<br>guidance of an<br>advisory panel of three<br>or more members<br>appointed by the<br>dean(s) concerned, is<br>responsible for policy<br>and administrative and<br>financial operations to<br>the dean(s) of the<br>division(s) with<br>significant involvement<br>in the unit. Governing<br>Council, through the<br>recommendations of<br>the Vice-President and<br>Provost to its<br>committees, is the<br>ultimate reporting<br>authority. | The director, with the<br>guidance of an advisory<br>panel appointed by the<br>dean(s) concerned, is<br>responsible for policies<br>and administrative<br>operations to the dean(s)<br>of the division(s) with<br>significant involvement in<br>the unit, as specified in<br>Section 2 above. The<br>director is responsible for<br>financial operations to the<br>dean(s) involved, and<br>registers the unit with the<br>ORA.   | The Coordinator is<br>responsible for<br>administrative operations<br>to the head(s) of the<br>division(s) concerned. To<br>simplity reporting,<br>reporting authority should<br>be formalized at the time<br>of establishment of the<br>unit. The Coordinator is<br>responsible for financial<br>operations to the head(s)<br>involved, and registers the<br>research project(s) with<br>the ORA.   | The Coordinator is<br>responsible for<br>administrative operations<br>to the head(s) of the<br>department(s) or<br>division(s) concerned.  |
| 5. Appointing<br>Rights for Faculty                            | See Manual of Staff<br>Policies Academic Staff:<br>Policy and Procedures on<br>Academic Appointments:<br>Code number 3.01.02<br>Pages 4, 22 Faculty<br>usually are cross-<br>appointed, but the units<br>have the right to make<br>tenure-strearn<br>appointments.   | All faculty are cross-<br>appointed. Faculty<br>members may not hold<br>their primary appointment<br>in an EDU:02. Cross-<br>appointment of faculty<br>rests with the dean(s) of<br>the division(s) involved,<br>with the original<br>department or college as<br>the unit of primary<br>appointment. All<br>appointments are<br>reviewed from time to<br>time. Advice on merit pay,<br>tenure review, or other<br>matters relating to the<br>appointment of faculty will<br>be sought from the<br>director in accordance<br>with the policies of the<br>University | No rights of appointment<br>or cross-appointment<br>exist. Research fellows<br>are appointed through the<br>related department(s) or<br>division(s).   | No rights of appointment<br>exist.   |
|  | EDU:01   | EDU:02  | EDU:003  | EDU:004  |

| 6. Teaching Role                   | Students enrol in a<br>distinctive course of study<br>at the undergraduate<br>and/or graduate levels.<br>These courses of study<br>are established and<br>reviewed in a manner<br>similar to those of a<br>department. However,<br>since the academic<br>requirements will span<br>departments or divisions,<br>approvals must be sought<br>in all units involved, and<br>may be required<br>ultimately from any<br>external agencies<br>concerned.   | EDU:02's do not register<br>students.  | None.   | A set of courses in an<br>academic area is the<br>reason for the existence<br>of an EDU:004. Students<br>follow a designated<br>programme as prescribed<br>in the calendar(s) of the<br>units involved. Students<br>register for information<br>with the programme<br>coordinator who is<br>responsible for their<br>guidance through the<br>course of study. |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| 7. Research Role                   | In addition to its teaching<br>role, an EDU:01 is<br>concerned with a broad<br>area of research.  | An EDU:02 is concerned<br>with a well-defined area of<br>multidisciplinary research.   | An EDU:003 is formed to<br>pursue specific research<br>objectives. Each proposal<br>for outside research funds<br>and the name of its<br>designated head for grant<br>management should be<br>reported to the<br>appropriate divisional<br>head(s). | None.   |
|                                    |   |  |   |   |
| 8. Budgetary<br>Authority          | The director administers<br>an operating budget from<br>divisional budget(s) and<br>external research grant<br>sources. Ultimate<br>financial authority goes<br>through the appropriate<br>dean(s). Annual budgets<br>are operated through the<br>appropriate dean(s).  | The director administers<br>an operating budget from<br>divisional budget(s) and<br>external research grant<br>sources. Financial<br>authority rests with the<br>appropriate dean(s), who<br>coordinate the annual<br>budget as part of the<br>appropriate decanal<br>budget(s). | Research funds are<br>administered through a<br>department or Faculty.<br>This is normally the<br>department, EDU:01,<br>EDU:02, or Faculty to<br>which the Coordinator<br>reports.   | The Coordinator may<br>administer funds, if so<br>delegated by the<br>division(s). Ultimate<br>financial authority goes<br>through the appropriate<br>head(s) to the dean(s) of<br>the division(s) involved.  |
| 9. Administration<br>of Grievances | Faculty have access to<br>the grievance procedures<br>in the Memorandum of<br>Agreement between The<br>Governing Council of the<br>University of Toronto and<br>The University of Toronto<br>Faculty Association<br>(Article 7: Grievance<br>Procedure).<br>Administrative staff have<br>access to procedures in<br>the Manual of Staff<br>Policies (Code number<br>4.02.11). Students have<br>access to the academic or<br>administrative appeal<br>procedures of the<br>divisions(s) concerned.<br>Step No. 1 authority for<br>faculty is the director,<br>Step No. 2 authority the<br>appropriate dean(s). | Faculty may pursue<br>grievances through their<br>department or division.<br>Administrative staff<br>working solely in the unit<br>have access to the<br>procedures in the Manual<br>of Staff Policies (Code<br>number 4.02.11).   | Faculty and staff may<br>pursue grievances<br>through their department<br>or division.  | Faculty, staff and<br>students may pursue<br>grievances through their<br>department or division.  |

|                          | EDU:01  | EDU:02   | EDU:003   | EDU:004  |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 10. Process of<br>Review | Reviews should be<br>undertaken by the Office<br>of the Vice-PresIdent and<br>Provost at the fixed<br>intervals set aside for the<br>appointment of a director,<br>and reported to the<br>Academic Affairs<br>Committee under its<br>guidelines.  | Reviews should be<br>undertaken by the dean(s)<br>of the appropriate<br>division(s) at the fixed<br>intervals set aside for the<br>appointment of a director.<br>The review procedures<br>should be defined by the<br>division(s) at the unit's<br>inception and approved<br>by the Vice-President and<br>Provost as being<br>consistent with University-<br>wide standards. | A periodic review is<br>conducted by the<br>division(s) concerned, at<br>such times as the<br>appointment of a<br>coordinator, the review of<br>the division(s), and the<br>evaluation of the research<br>project(s). | A periodic review of<br>courses or the course of<br>study is conducted by the<br>department(s) or<br>division(s) concerned<br>through normal curriculum<br>committee procedures.   |
| 11.<br>Disestablishment  | Dissolution of the unit,<br>upon the decision of a<br>regular or special review<br>or for academic or<br>budgetary reasons, is<br>finalized through<br>Governing Council, upon<br>the recommendations of<br>the Vice-PresIdent and<br>Provost and the<br>Academic Affairs<br>Committee. | Dissolution of the unit,<br>upon the decision of a<br>regular or special review<br>or for academic or<br>budgetary reasons, is<br>finalized through the<br>dean(s) of the divisions(s)<br>whose departments<br>constitute the unit, and is<br>reported to the Vice-<br>President (Research and<br>Government Relations).   | Dissolution of the unit, for<br>lack of divisional or<br>external support or at the<br>completion of the<br>research project(s), is<br>through the head(s) of the<br>division(s) concerned.                           | Dissolution of the unit, for<br>lack of departmental or<br>divisional support or at<br>the ending of the unit's<br>course of study, is<br>through curriculum<br>committee procedures<br>and, by the established<br>process, the Academic<br>Affairs Committee of<br>Governing Council. |

### Part III: Recommendations

- 1 The Committee recommends that the University of Toronto retain the flexibility inherent in the formation and functioning of extra-departmental units which has been at the heart of much of the creative activity occurring across disciplinary lines. This flexibility is implied in the guidelines which we propose in this report. Extra-departmental units may change from one form to another over time and as circumstances change.
- 2 We recommend that those interested in proposing the formation of new or transformed extra-departmental units follow the classification in this report and the guidelines for structure and administration.
- 3 We recommend that the guidelines proposed in Part II of this report be formally adopted by the University through the appropriate councils and committees, and applied consistently in the administration of extra-departmental units.
- 4 We recommend that Section 26 of the Haist Rules be amended to make the term of a director of an EDU:01 five years.
- 5. In order to obtain a comprehensive and up-to-date directory, we recommend that all EDU:01's, EDU:02's, and EDU:003's be asked to register for information with the Office of Research Administration, by a deadline to be established by the Provost. We recommend that no existing institute, centre, programme or group be required to change its name to conform to these proposals, but only that they be encouraged insofar as history, tradition and circumstances allow to achieve consistency with these guidelines.

## University of Toronto



### Policy on Interdisciplinary Education and Research Planning

### Scope

The University is committed to fostering and facilitating interdisciplinary teaching, learning and research as they are essential to our academic mission. The University has a rich tradition of interdisciplinary work as shown in the breadth and strength of its interdisciplinary programs and research. These serve to enhance scholarship and the student experience both in teaching and exposure to research.

The University has a strong foundation of disciplinary education and research. Academic disciplines define epistemologies, theoretical studies and standards for research and education in a well-defined area of inquiry. Disciplines serve as platforms and frameworks for further scholarship and are defined in part by traditional groupings of scholars within academic institutions. The University remains strongly committed to fostering strength and excellence in the disciplines, as strong disciplines are the basis for strong interdisciplinary work.

### Procedures

The University will foster and promote interdisciplinary education and research through the development of academic guidelines and practices, organizational structures, and budgetary and financial frameworks that permit and enable interdisciplinary education and research to grow. The University will promulgate best practices for the evaluation and promotion of teaching staff who are engaged in interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Development of guidelines for administrative frameworks and protocols for organizational structures, and planning for budgetary and financial frameworks that permit and enable interdisciplinary education, are delegated to the Office of the Vice-President and Provost. Any significant changes to such guidelines will be presented to Governing Council for information.

The creation and review of interdisciplinary units will be facilitated through this administrative framework. The Office of the Vice-President and Provost is charged with maintaining an inventory of units created under the guidelines for administrative frameworks.

### Accountability

The University, as part of its annual accountability reports, will assess interdisciplinary education and research.

### Appendix 3

### Note:

Key changes proposed to the administrative criteria related to the *Report of the Provostial Committee on Centres* and *Institutes (Marsden Report, 1984)* include:

- The change to letter rather than number EDU listing has been undertaken in an effort to provide a clear demarcation point henceforth so that any re-classification of EDU from the previous criteria does not lead to confusion.
- Division of current EDU:1 into EDU:A and EDU:B with EDU:As having a critical mass of activity that includes the ability of the unit to engage in the appointment of faculty and admission of students to a program of graduate or undergraduate study. EDU:B also admits students, however, does not have primary faculty appointing rights.
- Current EDU:2s are classified as EDU:C.
- EDU:3 (research) and EDU:4 (teaching) are combined into one EDU:D that includes both research and/or teaching aspects.

The EDU taxonomy may represent an evolutionary path of sorts, with some EDUs evolving in time from EDU:D to EDU:A as an interdisciplinary field attains recognized stature. It should be noted that most units will not evolve in such a manner as fields of scholarship change over time. We must be prepared to disestablish units that are no longer necessary.

The EDU taxonomy highlights a range of interdisciplinary units that differ in stage of development and divisional protocol:

- An EDU:A has a well-established and defined area of scholarship as a focus. The unit has attained a critical mass of
  interdisciplinary scholarship at the University that allows for the unit to engage in the appointment of faculty,
  admission of students to a program of graduate or undergraduate study, and engage in interdisciplinary research.
  EDU:As differ from departments in that departments generally offer a full range of undergraduate and graduate
  programs and research. It is expected that the total number of EDU:As at any given time will be small.
- An EDU:B has a defined area of scholarship as a focus and also admits students to interdisciplinary programs and engages in interdisciplinary research. However, faculty appointments are made in established departments with faculty cross-appointed to the EDU:B.
- An EDU:C unit does not have a program to which students are admitted.
- An EDU:D represents a group of scholars who have come together for the purpose of pursuing specific research objectives or offering a set of courses in an area of academic interest not offered under departmental, EDU:A and EDU:B course offerings. It may be multidisciplinary or it may arise within a single discipline or department, EDU:A or EDU:B.

The creation of EDU:A and B must be approved by Governing Council, while the creation of EDU:C must be delegated to Faculty Councils, and EDU:D to the relevant academic unit.

### **Guidelines for Administrative Functions and Protocols of Extra-Departmental Units**

The table below outlines the administrative frameworks and procedural guidelines involved in the establishment and work of each type of unit. These are intended to set lines of authority and reporting, and to clarify issues concerning reviews and the work of coordinators or directors.

|                     | EDU:A  | EDU:B  | EDU:C  | EDU:D  |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Description      | Multidisciplinary, multi-<br>departmental group with<br>faculty and students working<br>in a well-established and<br>defined area of academic<br>study and scholarship. It is a<br>centrally established and<br>independent unit designed to<br>foster research and teaching<br>in specialized areas. EDU:As<br>offer programs where the<br>number, quality, and research<br>support of the faculty can<br>foster an established program<br>and where the resources<br>available to faculty and<br>students can guarantee a<br>"critical mass" of scholarship<br>and admissions. | Multidisciplinary, multi-<br>departmental group with<br>faculty and students working<br>in a defined area of academic<br>study and scholarship. It is a<br>centrally established unit<br>designed to foster research<br>and teaching in new or highly<br>specialized areas. EDU:Bs<br>offer programs where the<br>number, quality, and support<br>of the faculty can foster a new<br>or ongoing program and<br>where the resources available<br>to faculty and students can<br>guarantee a "critical mass" of<br>scholarship and admissions. | Normally a<br>multidisciplinary<br>multidepartmental<br>research and/or<br>academic unit with a<br>defined research domain<br>in a particular area of<br>academic work. It exists<br>to foster research and<br>scholarly interest in the<br>area.  | A group of scholars who<br>have come together for<br>the purpose of pursuing<br>specific research<br>objectives or offering a<br>set of courses in an area<br>of academic interest not<br>offered under<br>departmental, EDU:A<br>and EDU:B course<br>offerings. It may be<br>multidisciplinary or it may<br>arise within a single<br>discipline or department,<br>EDU:A or EDU:B. |
| 2.<br>Establishment | A proposed interdisciplinary<br>teaching and research unit is<br>discussed with the Deans and<br>the Vice-President and<br>Provost. The proposal should<br>be in accordance with the<br>University's <i>Policy for</i><br><i>Assessment and Review of</i><br><i>Academic Programs and</i><br><i>Units.</i> The EDU is approved<br>by the departments and<br>division(s) involved.<br>Following, the proposal for<br>the unit is brought forward by<br>the Vice-President and<br>Provost before the<br>appropriate Governing<br>Council committees for<br>approval.               | As per EDU:A   | Proposal for a multi-<br>departmental research<br>unit and/or academic<br>program is brought for<br>approval before the<br>council or governing body<br>of the division(s)<br>concerned. The proposal<br>should be in accordance<br>with the University's<br><i>Policy for Assessment</i><br><i>and Review of Academic</i><br><i>Programs and Units</i> . After<br>approval, the proposal for<br>the unit/program,<br>including<br>recommendations on<br>internal University and<br>external grant funding<br>and on staffing, will be<br>reported to the Vice-<br>President and Provost<br>and the Vice-President<br>Research and Associate<br>Provost by the dean(s) of<br>the divisions(s) involved,<br>who have agreed upon<br>resource commitments<br>and budget. | Proposal for a research<br>unit is brought for<br>approval before the<br>head(s) of the unit(s)<br>concerned. The<br>existence of the unit and<br>the name of the<br>Coordinator are reported<br>to the Vice-President<br>and Provost and the<br>Vice-President Research<br>and Associate Provost<br>and the Office of<br>Research Services.                                       |

|   | EDU:A  | EDU:B        | EDU:C  | EDU:D  |
|---|--|--------------|--|--|
| 3.<br>Appointment<br>of an<br>Administrator   | See: Policy on Appointment<br>of Academic Administrators:<br>Section II. The Office of<br>Director of an Academic<br>Centre or Institute. External<br>reviews should be undertaken<br>by the dean(s) of the<br>appropriate division(s) at fixed<br>intervals set aside for the<br>appointment or re-<br>appointment of a director. The<br>review procedures should be<br>defined by the division(s) at<br>the unit's inception and<br>approved by the Vice-<br>President and Provost as<br>being consistent with<br>University-wide standards<br>and reported to the<br>Committee on Academic<br>Policy and Programs under<br>the University's policies and<br>guidelines. Continuation of<br>the unit is dependent on<br>periodic review of the unit. | As per EDU:A | A director is appointed for<br>a fixed term by the<br>dean(s) by whom the unit<br>was created. Reviews<br>should be undertaken by<br>the dean(s) of the<br>appropriate division(s) at<br>fixed intervals set aside<br>for the appointment or re-<br>appointment of a director.<br>The review procedures<br>should be defined by the<br>division(s) at the unit's<br>inception and approved<br>by the Dean(s) as being<br>consistent with<br>University-wide<br>standards. Termination<br>of the appoint-ment of a<br>director rests with the<br>dean(s) of the division(s)<br>concerned as per<br>divisional guidelines. The<br>name of the director is<br>filed with the Office of the<br>Provost. Any change in<br>status of the director must<br>be reported to the Office<br>of the Provost. | A Coordinator is<br>appointed by the head(s)<br>of the department(s) or<br>division(s) concerned to<br>serve a fixed term<br>determined by the<br>department(s) involved.<br>Termination of the<br>appointment of a<br>Coordinator rests with<br>the head(s) of the<br>department(s) or<br>division(s) concerned.<br>A periodic review is<br>conducted by the unit(s)<br>concerned, at such times<br>as the appointment or re-<br>appointment of a<br>coordinator, the review<br>of the division(s), and the<br>evaluation of the<br>research project(s)<br>and/or course offerings. |
| 4. Reporting<br>and<br>Budgetary<br>Authority | The director, under guidance<br>of an advisory panel of three or<br>more members appointed by<br>the dean(s) concerned, is<br>responsible for policy and<br>administrative and financial<br>operations to the dean(s) of<br>the division(s) with significant<br>involvement in the unit. The<br>director administers an<br>operating budget from ongoing<br>divisional budget(s) and<br>external grant sources.  | As per EDU:A | The director, with the<br>guidance of an advisory<br>panel appointed by the<br>dean(s) concerned, is<br>responsible for policies<br>and administrative<br>operations to the dean(s)<br>of the division(s) with<br>significant involvement in<br>the unit, as specified in<br>Section 2 above. The<br>director is responsible for<br>financial operations to the<br>dean(s) involved. The<br>director may administer an<br>operating budget from<br>divisional budget(s) and<br>external grant sources.   | The Coordinator is<br>responsible for<br>administrative operations<br>to the head(s) of the<br>division(s) concerned and<br>is responsible for the<br>financial operations of the<br>unit and administration<br>funds, if so delegated by<br>the division(s). Proposals<br>for outside research funds<br>and the name of the<br>designated head for grant<br>management should be<br>reported to the<br>appropriate divisional<br>head(s). Ultimate financial<br>authority goes through the<br>appropriate head(s) to the<br>dean(s) of the division(s)<br>involved.                 |

|                      | EDU:A   | EDU:B  | EDU:C        | EDU:D  |
|----------------------|---|--|--------------|--|
| 5. Teaching<br>Staff | EDU:As have the ability to<br>make faculty appointments,<br>although faculty should<br>normally be cross-appointed to<br>a cognate department. The<br>unit also has the ability to<br>cross-appoint faculty members<br>as per an EDU:B. See <i>Policy</i><br>and <i>Procedures on Academic</i><br><i>Appointments</i> Faculty have<br>access to the grievance<br>procedures in the policies and<br>memoranda of the University.<br>Step No. 1 authority for faculty<br>is the Director, Step No. 2<br>authority the appropriate<br>dean(s). | No primary faculty appointing<br>rights; faculty members may<br>not hold their primary<br>appointment in an EDU:B.<br>Cross-appointment of faculty<br>rests with the dean(s) of the<br>division(s) involved, with the<br>original department or college<br>as the unit of primary<br>appointment. Graduate<br>membership may be extended<br>as a cross-appointment.<br>Faculty may pursue<br>grievances through their<br>department or division. | As per EDU:B | No rights of appointment<br>or cross-appointment<br>exist. |

| 6. Teaching<br>Role | Students enrol in a distinctive<br>course of study at the<br>undergraduate and/or<br>graduate levels. Programs are<br>established and reviewed in a<br>manner similar to those of a<br>department. However, since<br>the academic requirements will<br>span departments or divisions,<br>approvals must be sought in all<br>units involved, and may be<br>required ultimately from any<br>external agencies concerned.<br>Students have access to the<br>academic administrative<br>appeal procedures of the<br>divisions(s) concerned. | As per EDU:A | EDU-Cs do not register<br>students. They offer a set<br>of courses in an academic<br>area. Students follow a<br>designated program as<br>prescribed in the<br>calendar(s) of the<br>departments or division(s)<br>involved. Students register<br>for information with the<br>program coordinator who<br>is responsible for their<br>guidance through the<br>course of study. | As per EDU:C |
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|---------------------|---|--------------|--|--------------|